New Report Details Policy Proposals to Bridge the Racial Wealth Divide

The deep and persistent racial wealth divide will not close without bold, structural reform

Washington D.C. - The racial wealth divide is greater today than it was nearly four decades ago and trends point to its continued widening. A new report, “Ten Solutions to Bridge the Racial Wealth Divide,” released by the Institute for Policy Studies, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, takes stock of the problem and offers ten bold solutions.

“Implementing the policies in this report are essential to balancing the historical injustices that created the racial wealth divide in a manner that is universal but race conscious,” said Darrick Hamilton, report co-author and executive director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at The Ohio State University.

The solutions outlined in this report are designed to strike at the structural underpinnings holding the racial wealth divide in place while offering a warning against false solutions.

Ten Solutions to Bridge the Racial Wealth Divide:
1. Baby Bonds
2. Guaranteed Employment and a Significantly Higher Minimum Wage
3. Affordable Housing
4. Medicare for All
5. Postal Banking
6. Higher Taxes for the Ultra-Wealthy
7. Fixes to Upside-Down Tax Expenditures
8. A Congressional Committee on Reparations
9. Data Collection on Race and Wealth
10. A Racial Wealth Analysis

This report comes in the wake of a previous study, *Dreams Deferred: How Enriching the 1 Percent Widens the Racial Wealth Divide*, and is intended to present a clear and actionable menu of public policies to address the racial wealth divide.

“If the past several decades are to teach us anything about race and wealth, it should be that the racial wealth divide will not be closed without a structural change to the status quo,” said Chuck Collins, co-author of the report, director of IPS’s Program on Inequality and co-editor of Inequality.org. “Individual behavioral action is not the answer to address structurally established barriers nor is the patient aspirant idea that this problem will fix itself.”

“We offer ten bold solutions broken into three categories: Programs, Power and Process,” said report co-author Dedrick Asante-Muhammad, Chief of Equity and Inclusion at the National Community Reinvestment Coalition. “They are presented in hopes of inspiring lawmakers, activists, organizers, academics, journalists and others to think boldly about collectively taking on this incredibly important challenge.”

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The Institute for Policy Studies is a multi-issue research center that has conducted path-breaking research on inequality for more than 20 years. The IPS Program on Inequality and the Inequality.org website provide research, advocacy and policy development on issues related to economic inequality. Learn more at: www.ips-dc.org

NCRC and its grassroots member organizations create opportunities for people to build wealth. We work with community leaders, policymakers and financial institutions to champion fairness in banking, housing and business. NCRC was formed in 1990 by national, regional and local organizations to increase the flow of private capital into traditionally underserved communities. NCRC has grown into an association of more than 600 community-based organizations in 42 states that promote access to basic banking services, affordable housing, entrepreneurship, job creation and vibrant communities for America’s working families. Learn more at: www.ncrc.org

The Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity is an interdisciplinary engaged research institute at The Ohio State University established in May 2003. Our goal is to connect individuals and communities with opportunities needed for thriving by educating the public, building the capacity of allied social justice organizations, and investing in efforts that support equity and inclusion. Here at the Kirwan Institute we do this through research, engagement, and communication. Learn more at: http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/